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SOUTHERN

Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

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Unions Ask Land For Landless At Texas Meeting

Union farmers from four states presented statements at the Dallas session of President Roosevelt's Committee on Farm Tenacy. Mr. L. C. Gray, executive secretary, presided. He announced that the Committee will make its report to the President about February First.

S. T. F. U. REPRESENTED

Odis Sweden, president of the Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union, spoke strongly for written contracts between landlords and tenants.

L. L. Gollehan, S. T. F. U. leader of Post, Texas, stated that the government must furnish teams, tools and cheap loans to enable farm hands to become owners.

"The South Plains of Texas are being monopolized by a few men while those who broke the sod and built the country are being deprived of a place on the soil," said C. L. Dyke, Tahoka, Texas, member.

J. R. Butler, president of the S. T. F. U., declared that a program can be worked out to abolish tenantry in America.

FARMERS' UNION PROPOSALS

Gordon McIntire representative of the Louisiana Farmers' Union, pointed out the inadequacy of the Bankhead-Jones Bill and asked for more loans for teams and tools for sharecroppers. A written statement was submitted to the Committee. Tom W. Cheek, president of the Oklahoma Farmers' Union, spoke for sharply graduated land taxes.

MANY COUNTY AGENTS'

Most of the 800 people present were county agents, Resettlement officials and Extension Service men. A poll taken by the Chairman showed that of the farmers present 50 were landlords, 40 owner-producers, and 35 tenants and sharecroppers.

Mexico Plantations Split Up; Give Land To Landless Peons

Mexico City.—The promise of President Cardenas to divide the great plantations of the cotton-growing Laguna region among the landless agricultural workers who went on general strike last summer, is rapidly being fulfilled. To date 31 big estates have been divided among the peasants of the region. A total of 38,000 acres has been distributed so far to 2,190 heads of families and the work of surveying further land grants for distribution later on is being pushed by Gabino Vasquez, head of the agrarian department.

ORGANIZE FIELD WORKERS

As a result of last summer's strike movement and the government program to satisfy the demands of the Laguna peasants, the entire region has been aroused to new forms of activity. In addition to the powerful trend towards organization that has swept the male field workers, the women of the region, too, are waking up. Their traditional feeling of hopelessness is gone and they are beginning to learn the lessons of organization and cooperation.

CHUNK RECALL PETITION IN FIRE

A petition for a referendum to recall the national secretary of the Farmers' Union, J. M. Graves, and two members of the National Board, Tabbott and Keeney, appeared in the last issue of the *National Union Farmer*. Chunk the petition into the stove and let E. E. KENNEDY know you *don't want him* in the leadership of the Union.

Kennedy got his friends to start the petition. If you want the membership to control the union defeat Kennedy. Let the members choose their own leaders.

At the last convention the officers and board members were elected by the delegates representing the membership. We ask all union members to chunk the recall petitions into the fire.

Winston Farmer Gets Raw Deal

Double Springs, Ala.—T. M. Moles, 60 year old farmer and Resettlement Administration client, is protesting the "dirty deal" given to him by County Supervisor George M. Delashaw.

Some time ago Mr. Moles bought two steers from R. A. on credit with the understanding that he was to pay off the loan in five years. He signed up under County Supervisor Walker Hampden, whom he praised for his fair treatment of poor farmers.

Last fall Supervisor Hampden was replaced by George M. Delashaw, who is out to build the reactionary Farm Bureau and has stated that no loans will be given to union members. Although there is no local of the Farmers' Union where he lives, Mr. Moles has always been a warm supporter of the union and feels certain that the only reason Hampden was dismissed was because he would have no hand in supporting the banker-landlord Farm Bureau.

(Continued On Page Two)

St. Landry Farm Tenants Getting Teams & Tools

By GORDON McINTIRE

St. Landry farm tenants displaced by the proposed Tenant Security project in St. Landry Parish, La., have finally been granted loans by Resettlement. They total $400-$500 per family at 4% interest. Loans for teams and tools are to be payed over a five-year period. Crop loans are due after harvest.

Eighteen white and colored tenants on the farm were being thrown upon the road by Resettlement before the issue was taken up by the Farmers' Union. The Union asked that Resettlement aid those tenants who had been on the land. But others were accepted because they had teams.

All of the tenants who stood militantly on the land have been interviewed by Resettlement representatives. But some of those who moved off during November have never been able to see Resettlement Supervisor Louis Fontenot.

Mr. Fontenot still persists in discrimination against the Union. Lately this has taken the form of calling Union members brother and sister and representing himself to some as a Union leader. Such playfulness will be all right with the members just as long as the loans come through.

The people who are in the worst fix are those who were accepted by Resettlement for the Tenant-Security project and have moved on the St. Landry Farm. Resettlement forgot to investigate the title to the land which they promised these people. They don't know yet whether they will have some place to farm this year or whether Resettlement has just played a bad joke on them. These families should organize themselves and demand a fair deal!

Muskogee, Okla.—The annual convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union was held here January 14-17 with about 200 delegates attending.

A report on the proceedings will appear in the next issue of *Southern Farm Leader*.

In the above picture are members of Pike Road Local No. 428 of the Alabama Farmers' Union, the first local of the Share Croppers' Union to transfer to the Farmers' Union following the decision of the two unions to unite. At the left standing is William Rachman, Editor of Southern Farm Leader, and seated in front of him is Clyde Johnson, Secretary of the Share Croppers' Union.

ATTENDS HEARING

Clyde Johnson

The Secretary of the Share Croppers' Union brought the union's demands for land, justice and freedom before the Montgomery meeting on Farm-Tenancy.

Jasper Land Hog Eats Up Farmers

Jasper, Ala.—J. M. Phillips wealthy landlord of Jasper, Ala., has tenants scattered all over Jefferson, Winston and Walker counties, the Southern Farm Leader learned recently. He has made a practice of getting small owners into debt by offering easy credit for seed, mules and fertilizer and then foreclosing on them. The extent of his power in Walker County may be judged by the fact that nearly 75 farmers were at his office on January 4th to renew their mortgages.

In Phillips' credit store in Jasper, the farmers get no more than 40c on the dollar when they buy this way. For a 48-lb. sack of flour, costing $1.80 for cash buyers, tenants must pay Phillips $2.50 on credit.

Everybody who wants to stay on Phillips' farm near Jasper must clear land which has a heavy under growth. For this back-breaking work, worth at least $25 an acre, Phillips pays the farmers $6 an acre. When they work by day on other jobs, they get 10c an hour and Oscar Kennedy, the timekeeper, has cheated some of the men as high as 200 hours in 12 months.

Two years ago, when the Walker County Bank was charging the farmers only 20c to make out their cotton loan agreements, Phillips charged $1.00 for this service. When the farmers began to patronize the bank, Phillips saw A. M. Grimly, of Fayette, the bank's president, and tried to get him to raise his fees to $1.00 also. Although Walter M. Bankhead, a lawyer in Jasper who is the son of Senator Bankhead, told Phillips he could charge $2.00 if he wanted to, Mr. Grimly of the Walker County Bank refused to raise the rate and finally stopped charging for it altogether.

Phillips had to do the work free after the bank stopped charging for it but only after he had made about $2000 of the poor farmers' money on it.

Demand the right to gin and sell your own cotton!

40 Acres & Mule Is Union Demand At Ala. Hearing

By Clyde Johnson

Montgomery, Ala.—The 70-year-old cry for 40 acres and a mule rang through the Cradle of the Confederacy on January 6th as 350 government officials, landlords, county agents and representatives of union cotton farmers met to discuss ways and means of abolishing the share-crop system.

Governor Bibb Graves opened the meeting with an appeal for "human-mindedness" in solving the problem. He said the difficulties in making home owners of tenants was that they were ignorant, lacked training and were financially unable. Gov. Graves supported the Bankhead Bill which would take 230 years to provide land for all landless tenants.

Dr. L. C. Gray, Secretary of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, explained the purpose of the meeting.

UNION MEN SPEAK

W. C. Irby, representing the National Board of the Farmers' Union, proposed that every farmer own his own home. Irby condemned the large land holdings of the banks and corporations and the greedy profits of the bankers. He pointed out that the farmer produced an average of $5000 a year and that the average farm income is less than $300.

Speaking next on the program as Secretary of the Share Croppers Union, I proposed (1) That the government make loans to all landless farmers to enable them to farm for themselves right away—not 200 years from now, (2) That cost of production prices be guaranteed the farmer—otherwise they could not succeed, (3) That the government support marketing and purchasing co-operatives controlled by the farmers, (4) That county agents be elected by the farmers, (5) That schools be established for all with government aid, (6) That the right to vote and other democratic rights be guaranteed to all poor people, (7) That economic equality be established for the Negro people ,and (8) That the right to organize and constitutional rights be protected by the government.

(Conitnued On Page Two)

Mother's Club Gets Toilets For School

Opelousas, La.—Farmers' Union mothers of Opelousas Local No. 6 have won their fight to improve the equipment of the school in Gradnigo Island.

Following a meeting with Mrs. Anne Johnson several weeks ago a Mothers' Club was formed. By hard work they were able to raise $15.50 for the much needed improvements. A committee was then elected and sent to the parish school officials. They agreed to supply an equal amount.

Sanitary toilets have already been completed and new steps built. A fence to enclose the grounds is to be built immediately. Elvirda Antoine, president of the Mothers' Club says the members are pleased but not satisfied. They already have plans for more improvement of the school for their children.

WORKERS ALLIANCE ORGANIZES AGAINST HUNGER AND SUFFERING

By DON WEST,
State Organizer,
Kentucky Workers' Alliance

In Kentucky we have been struggling along to organize a greater unity of the most oppressed section of our population, the unemployed. Because I know Kentucky most intimately from personal first-hand information, I want to say a few words about what we are doing here. The same thing we are doing in Kentucky can apply to the other states of the South.

First of all we begin with the job of educating the masses with the truth, well known by everyone, that THERE IS PLENTY FOR ALL. We are fighting for jobs at living wages for all the unemployed. Briefly our major demands are as follows:

1. Jobs for all the unemployed in need of work. This can be done by expanding the present W.P.A. program.

2. Union hourly wages on all public works projects; a minimum fo $40.00 a month on all projects, and an increase of 20 per cent for those who may be drawing more than $40.00.

3. Adequate relief for all disabled workers; adequate old age pensions for the aged. This money to be raised by graduated income tax on all big incomes over $50,000 a year.

At present we have about 16,000 organized in Kentucky. In our state convention we set up a state organization and have been chartered by the national office of the Workers Alliance of America. Many of our members are tenant farmers, croppers and drouth-stricken hill farmers. There is at present no farmers organization in Kentucky, and we have been trying and are anxious to see the Farmers' Union organize in Kentucky. We support the struggles of the organized trade unions. We have close cooperation with the locals of the United Mine Workers. We support the union struggles for the 30-hour week, to improve and maintain union wage standards, and oppose company unions.

We fight for genuine unemployment and old age pensions as represented by the Frazier-Lundeen Bill which would provide full compensation for all loss of income due to unemployment, old age, sickness and maternity. We back the youth of our country in the fight for the enactment of the American Youth Act which would provide opportunity of work and study for youth.

We recognize the need for labor and poor farmers to build independent political action. The toiling population, those who do the useful work, must organize themselves politically under their own banner, with their own program. They must unite themselves into a powerful FARMER-LABOR PARTY to fight for the establishment of a people's government—a government of, for and by the people. Our state convention pledges itself to work with other organized labor or farm groups to take the first steps toward building a Farmer-Labor Party in Kentucky, and looks forward to uniting with the big trade-union forces working for a national party in 1940.

Already we have won many significant victories. Our union in Kentucky has made itself felt. I have made several radio speeches for the Kentucky Workers' Alliance. We have had demonstrations, mass meetings, and threatened strike in order to win jobs and decent wages. By no means have we won what we are fighting for. That is why we are still struggling so hard to build many more thousands strong, and to put in dozens of more locals in all the little towns of Kentucky.

Kentucky is what should be done in

The beginning we are making in every southern state. The Workers' Alliance of America has been officially recognized by the W.P.A. officials as the offical bargaining agency for all W.P.A. workers, or unemployed and part-time workers. It is of the greatest importance that this section of the most oppressed toilers be organized. I should think that the Farmers' Union locals and leaders, and the Share Croppers Union locals and leaders, ought to use every effort to help organize the Workers' Alliance in every town or community. We have the closest similarity of problems. Many thousands of drouth-stricken farmers need the benefits of the Workers' Alliance. Thousands of croppers and tenants driven off the land, need to be put to work or receive relief.

These needs and problems can be met by greater and greater cooperation of the different organized sections of the toilers. The Workers' Alliance, with over a million members nationally; has become a real force and power to be reckoned with by the relief officials. We pledge our cooperation and support to all other organized labor and farm groups. We trust and urge that greater cooperation and unity be achieved in this mutual struggle for the right to live.

40 ACRES & MULE IS ALABAMA DEMAND

(Continued From Page 1)

Howard Kester of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union said the sharecropping system was a curse to the South and that it must be abolished. He proposed community cooperatives where each farmer owns and operates his farm and they sell their products co-operatively.

VOICE OF WALL STREET

Oscar Johnson, manager of the Delta Pine plantation at Scott, Miss., represented the Delta Chamber of Commerce and Governor White. Johnson said only the most capable tenants should own their own land. This would allow landlords and County Agents to say who should own land.

The British-owned plantation where 862 tenants are ruled by Oscar Johnson was praised by him for its success. Modern slavery under Wall Street bankers would be a better name for it.

BIG LANDLORDS WHINE

A white-haired Wilcox County landlord, whose parents were slave-owners, asked what he would do if he didn't have tenants to farm his land. Maybe he should not own more land than he can work himself.

NEGROES SPEAK

T. C. Campbell, Professor in the Agricultural Department at Tuskegee Institute, told several stories that showed the slave conditions under which Negroes live.

He told about a parade of hooded landlords one night. The next morning a Negro came into the Judge's store and said "Good morning, I saw you last night in the parade." The Judge asked how he recognized him. The Negro pointed at the mud on the Judge's shoes. We wonder if this story is about Macon County where our union members have been terrorized so much.

Turner of Tuckegee said Negro farmers have been waiting 70 years for their 40 acres and a mule.

MORE UNION SPEAKERS

R. H. Sartain, President of the Alabama Farmers' Union, asked the state to take politics out of the Extension Service and the colleges. Vester Burkett, District 3 organizer of the Farmers' union, demanded education for children so they would know how to get farms and step wearing "guano sack" shirts.

M. W. Martin, Agricultural Workers' Union organizer, demanded the right to organize be established and terror against unions be stopped.

SOUTHERN POLICY COMMITTEE

Six Families Evicted In Rain & Cold From Houston Gardens R. A. Project

By SHEILA MOORE

Houston, Texas.—Refusal to sign an agreement calling for higher payments has resulted in the eviction of six families from Houston Gardens, a Resettlement Administration Project. Deputy sheriffs arriving at 8 o'clock in the morning drove the families out into a cold wind, and piled their furniture into a nearby ditch. The evicted men, women and children ate Thanksgiving dinner in tents which they managed to secure. Other families who refused to sign agreements are expecting eviction.

The present turmoil is the result of a transfer of the project from a government-controlled agency to a so-called cooperative, non-profit making corporation. Almost half of the 100 families on the project, although denied the use of the field hall, called a mass meeting to protest against the action of the officials when the families received notices of eviction. One colonist stated that a uniform assessment of $11.80, promised him when he accepted his home more than 20 months ago, was shortly raised to $20. Mrs. D. D. Holton, declaring that she was sympathetic with the evicted families, stated that she would be compelled to sign a new contract. "I have a sick baby and a child with a broken leg," she said. The families hope for an investigation of the situation from Washington.

Charges against government officials supervising the project were heard at the meeting, and the colonists bitterly criticized the poor sanitation and the structure of the homes.

Promptly upon the heels of the eviction, while furniture of the dispossessed families stood out in a drizzling rain, R. A. officials arrived in Houston for the purpose of mapping out a plan for a second Harris County project, to be called Highland Farms. No relief clients will be considered for the farms, which will have a population of 120 families. The farms will consist of 40-70 acres each. The officials announced that rapid progress is being made in the establishment of colonies throughout the state.

Ore Miners Prepare Strike In Alabama

Birmingham, Ala.—Red ore union miners in the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co.'s mines near Birmingham are ready to strike if their demands are not met soon. More than 2000 members of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers will strike unless they are paid by the hour instead of by the ton. Last June the T. C. I. changed the pay rate from an hourly to a tonnage basis contrary to the demands of the miners.

The recent victory of the American Casting Company sit-in strikers which brought them higher pay and union recognition has given courage to the red ore miners of T. C. I. and a strike date was set tentatively for January 17.

WINSTON FARMER GETS RAW DEAL

(Continued from page 1)

Delashaw insisted that Mr. Moles pay up in full immediately. Moles sold his cotton crop, turned in his steers and paid $287 to R. A. leaving a balance of about $20. Now Supervisor Delashaw and County Agents Richardson want to take this balance out of Moles' Soil Conservation check of $48 which he expects to receive soon.

Since Moles needs every cent of this money to care for his wife and children through the winter, he has served written legal notice on the county agent not to touch his check.

Because Moles feels that it is impossible to get a fair deal from Supervisor Delashaw who is a Farm Bureau man and the owner of 4 or 5 farms near Haleyville, he expressed willingness to meet the District Director of Resettlement, Mr. N. S. Stewart in Birmingham, or any one else who cares to attend, and press his case for the dismissal of Supervisor Delashaw.

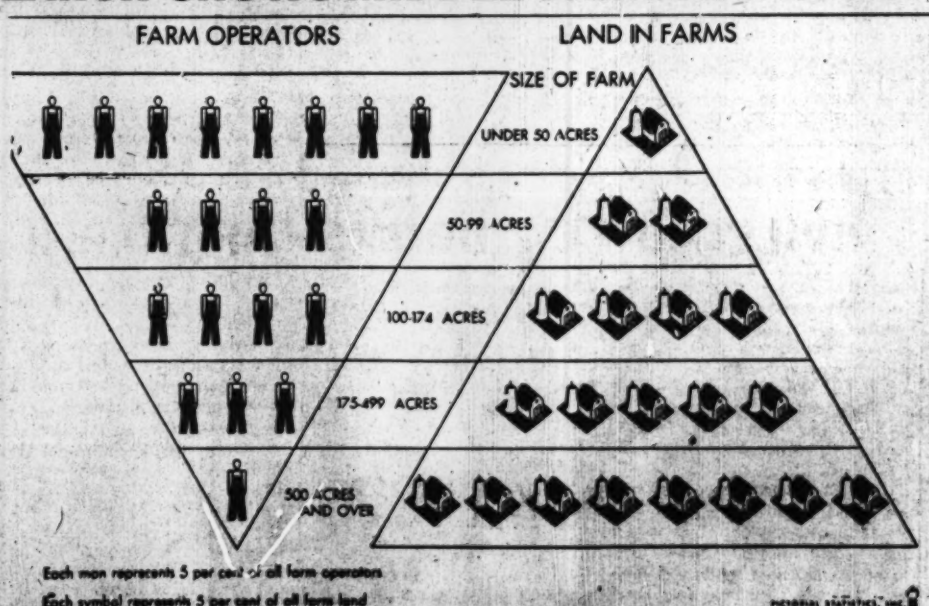
FARM RESEARCH SHOWS MIDDLE FARMERS LOSING GROUND

(BY FARM RESEARCH)

In 1935, 40% of the farms in the U. S. operated less than 6% of all farm land, whereas at the other end of the scale 4% of the farms operated over 40% of all farm land. (U. S. Census of Agriculture: 1935, Second Series.)

Since 1900, the earliest date for which farm land operated by different size farms is available, concentration of farm land has steadily increased. This concentration has proceeded at the expense of the middle-sized farmers. Thus, while there were a million more farms in 1935 than in 1900, there were only 60,000 more farms with a size of 50-174 acres. There were nearly 450,000 more farms of under 50 acres in 1935 than in 1900. At the same time, farms of over 499 acres increased by more than 100,000 in the 35 years.

In spite of the fact that the major part of westward farm expansion took place after 1880, in 1935 about 40% of all farms contained under 50 acres as compared with only 30% in 1880. Concentration at the top can be seen most clearly from a comparison of the share of farm land operated by farms of large size. In 1900, 2.6% of the farms in the U. S. contained over 499 acres. In that year, these farms operated 13% of the farm land or 5 times their numerical proportion. By 1935 farms of this size constituted 3.3% of all farms but they operated 40.2% of all farm land, or 10 times their proportionate share of all farm land.


FARM OPERATORS
LAND IN FARMS
SIZE OF FARM
UNDER 50 ACRES
50-99 ACRES
100-174 ACRES
175-499 ACRES
500 ACRES AND OVER
Each man represents 5 per cent of all farm operators
Each symbol represents 5 per cent of all farm land
PICTORIAL STATISTICS, INC.

CHANGES, 1930-1935. Between 1930 and 1935 every section of the United States showed a sharpened concentration of land holdings. While the number of all farms increased 22% in this five-year period, (70%) occurred in the number of farms from 3 to 9 acres. Many of these farmers were undoubtedly former factory workers, called by the Census part-time farmers though they could find no industrial employment. Farms of 10-19 acres increased 8%, the sharpest jump. The number of farms of between 20 and 999 acres only increased between 4 and 5%. Very large farms increased at a much faster pace than farms of a middle acreage, but not as rapidly as the very small farms. In other words, farms at the two ends of the scale were increasing at the expense of the middle.

AVERAGE SIZE OF LARGE FARMS RISES

Another significant feature of the changes in size of farms between 1930 and 1935 appears in the figures on total value in the various size groups. Between 1930 and 1935 the average size of small farms fell. The average size of middle-sized farms remained about the same while the average size of the large farms increased considerably.

This general picture applies to all sections of the country. But since figures for the U. S. as a whole are a composite, "small," "middle," and "large," farms have a different meaning in different sections of the country. Nevertheless, in 1930, a year for which the Census contains figures on size of farms by types of farming, farms of every type and in each section of the country showed definite grouping of land holdings.

We are forced to use concentration of farm land holdings as a key to the grouping of farmers rather than a more satisfactory standard such as net farm income, because of the blanks and gaps in Census information. While figures on the size of farms are limited in significance they do bear some relation to farm income. In 1929, farms with the largest incomes were also farms with very large acreage. One-tenth of one per cent of the farms in the United States had a gross value of production of $30,000 or more. These farms operate 7% of all land in farms, or 70 times their numerically proportionate share of all farm land.

Even from the incomplete and limited figures on size of farms, we find that most farmers are being forced down the economic ladder and that a small number of large operators is gaining control of a major portion of American agriculture. The figures are actually a considerable understatement of concentration. In 1935, 44% of the farm land in this country was operated by tenants or was rented by farmers who owned additional land. This land was directly owned by absentee landlords. In addition, a large portion of land operated by farm owners is heavily mortgaged to banks, insurance companies and other corporations. In 1930 this covered 17% of all farm land.

La Place Farmers Ready To Organize

Brother Editor: Who said the farmers were incapable of organizing and sticking together?

Down in LaPlace, a group of observant truck farmers looked about them. They saw the few packers in the community wax fat and prosperous, after a few years in business, while the farmers, whose produce they shipped, not only remained poor, but seemed to get poorer year by year.

Said this little group of men, "There must be big profits in this packing business. Why can't we farmers get together, make up cars with our combined crops, do our own packing, and get top prices?"

This they did; twenty-seven of them, back in 1921, and have profited by their co-operative experiment. With better prices for their vegetables, these farmers have been able to pay better wages to their field laborers, and while other farmers were paying only three cents a dozen for shallot cleaning (mean, hard work) the organized farmers never paid under the usual five cents a dozen.

But all was not sweetness and light. Interest waned, a few members dropped out ,the "top prices" often did not bring a just return for the labor involved.

Is organization on a much larger scale a necessity? Will such action prove an effective check on the gentlemen at the top, who control farm prices? Do farmers need a new political party of their own, combined with organized labor? All these questions confront the farmers of LaPlace, as well as farmers everywhere. There is no doubt that the men who had the vision and initiative to form the Truck Farmers' Association of La Place will find the answers, and grow into something bigger.

A White Farmer,
LaPlace, Louisiana.

No School Books For Farm Children

Brother Editor:—We are supposed to get free books for the first and second grades. We only get a few of them. We are supposed to get Arithmetic and Music books free, too, but when our teacher asked for them she got a short, snappy answer to let her know that the Negro children would not get any of them even though the book cases in the office are full. Some of us parents who were able bought the books—they cost 40 cents. But we were supposed to get them free. The books are in the office but they won't give them to our children.

A LADY MEMBER,
Camp Hill Local,
Share Croppers Union.

Our Readers Write

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FARM BUREAU

Reviewed by
WILLIAM BACHMANN,
Editor, *Southern Farm Leader*

Now that the Department of Agriculture and the County Agents are trying to dock poor farmers $2.00 out of their cotton checks to join the Farm Bureau, it is time we learned the truth about this outfit. Where did it start? Who wanted it and why? Is it able to help the farmers?

HOW IT BEGAN AND WHY

The first Farm Bureau was set up in Broome County, New York, by the Binghampton Chamber of Commerce, a tool of big business and the exploiters of the country. It was a definite attempt on the part of big business to silence the "unrest" among farmers, to keep them from becoming "unrestful" in their poverty. Controlled, as are the 4-H Clubs, not by farmers but by bankers and landlords, the Farm Bureau was originally paid for by the Rockefellers, the Chicago Board of Trade and the railroads. The task of building it has since been shifted to the shoulders of the County Agents, paid for with taxpayers' money. To make the counties foot the bill, the Farm Bureau in the past HAS PUT THE NAMES OF DEAD MEN on its lists to prove it had the 200 required members.

SELLS TO HIGHEST BIDDER

The Farm Bureau has always sold its services to the highest bidder, the power trusts, corporations and bankers. In 1920, O. M. Kile of the Bureau, tried to get farmers to believe he was against the big corporations like American Cyanimid who opposed the production of cheap fertilizer by the Muscle Shoals development. Yet ten years later ,this same Mr. Kile was in the pay of American Cyanimid which had paid the Bureau to propagandize against government production of fertilizer. One of the little tricks of the Farm Bureau has been to allow big trusts to pay a man's salary while he poses as a Farm Bureau employe.

BUREAU TRIED TO HELP OUT SHIPOWNERS

Another notorious case of Farm Bureau sell-outs concerns the American Steamship Owners' Association. This big combine once wanted to pay the Farm Bureau $94,000 if it would convert American farmers to a belief in ship subsidies. The ship subsidy, as we all know, is the method by which owners get thousands of dollars from the government for carrying a pound or two of mail on their ships. Subsidies are mail contracts, yes, but they are really gifts of taxpayers' money to the big steel and ship trusts. When the Farm Bureau tried to sell itself to the shippers, the Bureau leaders pointed out that they had done similar good jobs for the National Lumbermen's Ass'n, the Portland Cement Ass'n and the National Automobile Chamber.

SOLD OUT TO CHAIN STORES

Finally, in the Congressional Record of June 10, 1935, Rep. Wright Patman of Texas exposed the Farm Bureau's sell-out to the large chain-store interests, such as the Kroger Stores and the J. P. Morgan-owned Safeway Stores.

TRUTH CAN SMASH THE BUREAU

Yes, the Farm Bureau does great things—NOT FOR THE FARMER for whom it cares nothing, BUT FOR THE GIANT CORPORATIONS AND POWER TRUSTS! In the past, thousands of honest farmers volunteered their services to the richest trusts without knowing it by joining the fake Farm Bureau. But Dale Kramer's 32-page pamphlet is the weapon they now can use to expose the slimy tricks of the Farm Bureau, which never was for the working farmer AND NEVER WILL BE! Get your copy from *Southern Farm Leader*, at 10c a copy, read it and get others to buy one. Let the farmers spread the truth about the rotten banker-landlord Farm Bureau so we can smash it forever!

LOWNDES COUNTY WILL HOLD STEADY

Brother Editor:—I received your letter and was indeed glad to hear from you. I had a talk with my group and they are holding on. in this county the Negroes are afraid of the landlords. Sometimes they tell me one thing and then don't do nothing.

Yet and still they wish the union to win. Since I last wrote to you there is a lot of moving. Some has got dissatisfied with the landlord.

You can depend on me to hold up or go down with the union. God knows I mean to stick hard by the union. Please put this in the paper and let the other brothers know where I stand.

Secretary,
Burkeville Local (Ala.)

Negro Youths Will Meet In Richmond

On February 13 and 14, the first All Southern Negro Youth Conference will be held in Richmond, Va. Thousands of Negro young people, representing many different organizations, will flock into historic Richmond to rally millions of Negro youth in the fight for a new era of freedom, equality and opportunity.

Such serious questions as employment for Negro young people, better educational opportunities for children, the right of Negroes to vote and the abolition of the hideous lynchings which disgrace the South will be taken up at the conference.

All Negro organizations desiring to send delegates to the conference are advised to write immediately to the Arrangements Committee, All Southern Negro Youth Conference, 717 Florida Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

MISERY DRAWS NO COLOR LINE

Brother Editor:—I have worked hard all of my life. I am 52 years old and the mother of 8 children. I still have to cook three meals a day, keep the house clean, milk, and work in the fields and make cotton and don't get anything for it.

I haven't got a decent dress to put on my little girl, 10 years old. I can't dress her decent to go to school. It is the same with the white and colored tenant farmers. They can't own land. You don't have to be black to be ground down in the dust in the South.

Yours truly,
J. N., Alabama.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOUTHERN FARM LEADER

M. W. MARTIN

Brother Martin has been very active building an Agricultural Workers' Union in Alabama and is pictured above signing up a young farm wage worker in Winston County. All wage hands should write to Brother Martin at Lynn, Ala., to get signed up and organized. A wage conference is being planned to take place before cotton chopping time.

EVEN DEMANDS HALF THE EGGS

Brother Editor:—We are having some trouble on the Sunny Side Farm. The landlord, _____, wants the half hands to give him half of the sweet potatoes, half of the chickens and eggs and hogs. And he won't work any other way but on half.

He has a little store and he sells meat so high and other things so high we can't buy them.

We have no place to raise a garden and it's tough. We can't get no relief. Please tell us what further steps to take to better our conditions.

We need better houses to live in. It rains in the house. We need buses for our children. For day work we get 80 cents a day.

NEGRO SHARECROPPER,
Half Hand,
Lettsworth, Louisiana.

Winston Union Protest Wins Mule & Loan For R. A. Farmer

Brother Editor:—That unceasing protest is the only answer to our poverty is proven in the case of one of our Farmers' Union brothers, Wash Manasco. Brother Manasco signed up for Resettlement farming in 1935 and bought two young steers for plowing from the Rural R. A.

After the crop season Brother Manasco could not pay his debt to the government agency, but was able to borrow again for 1936 and made a good crop. He made a demand on the R. A. for a mule this fall for plowing next spring but could get no favorable reply from Mr. George M. Delashaw, Winston County Supervisor of R. A. So Brother Manasco asked the Farmers' Union to help him fight his case with the R. A.

After a long battle with the Supervisor we have gained important concessions from the Winston County Resettlement, such as an offer of a $175 loan with any amount of fertilizer for cotton next year and an increase of 20% in acreage over the AAA allotment. Brother Manasco now has the right to trade his steers for a mule, which Mr. Delashaw said could not be done when we first took up this case with him.

Mr. Delashaw belongs to the Farm Bureau and is working through official channels to get farmers who sign up for R. A. loans to join this sell-out company union for us farmers. He has not been dealing fairly with three of our Brothers of Local 367 of the Alabama Farmers' Union, who are, or have been, clients of Resettelement.

Supervisor Delashaw is also cooperating with the Winston County County Agent, a Farm Bureau tool, in the Agent's futile efforts to reorganize the Farm Bureau in this county.

The Union has put up such a fight that Agent Eubanks has been removed from this County's office, but only to have Richardson, Jr. take office and try to revive the discredited Farm Bureau. In his meeting at Lynn in the schoolhouse, County Agent Richardson, Jr., got only ONE signer for his company union, and this a discredited ex-deputy sheriff, well known for his disgusting morals.

Farmers' Union Local 367 will keep on fighting like hell for the betterment of our members, and we now serve notice that we will not give up any of the cases we now have on record without a satisfactory settlement from Resettlement in Winston County.

Fraternally,
M. W. Martin, Sec'y-Treasurer,
Farmers' Union, Local 367,
Lynn, Alabama.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOUTHERN FARM LEADER

GREED OF PRIVILEGED FEW DOOMS CAPITALISM

By McKINLEY GILBERT
President, Local 367 Alabama Farmers' Union; Vice-President District 8

Personally I feel that the capitalistic system is doomed. It has its foundation on the principles of brutality, dishonesty, and avarice. It encourages everything that is evil. It creates in man wholly inhuman instincts; it logically leads to wars, to famine, to crime, to world depressions.

In 1929 we were capable of producing 135 billion dollars per annum or a sum equal to $4,370 per family.

The liabilities are an outworn economic order, slowly disintegrating through government dole to insurance companies, banks, industry, railroads, agriculture, business men and workers. A national frame of mind constituting a hangover from an age when mule ox, horse, coupled with a little water power constituted the only means for the production of wealth.

The actual wealth of a nation is the goods and service produced and distributed in the course of daily life. The potential wealth of a nation is its capacity to produce. In the peak prosperity year of 1929 the goods and services produced by, and sold to, the American people totaled 93 billion dollars. During the same year, America's capacity to produce goods and service was 135 billion dollars.

Deducting 93 billion from 135 billion of potential production, the loss to the American people was 42 billion dollars in 1929. Since 1929 American output of goods and services has sunk to increasingly lower levels.

The following table gives the actual figures:

WHAT AMERICA MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED	
1929	135 Billions
1930	127 Billions
1931	138 Billions
1932	139 Billions
1933	141 Billions
WHAT AMERICA DID PRODUCE	
1929	93 Billions
1930	86 Billions
1931	79 Billions
1932	69 Billions
1933	76 Billions

Thus it can be seen that the loss in 1929 was 42 billions, in 1930, 51 billions; in 1931, 59 billions; in 1932, 70 billions; and in 1933, 65 billions Thus the total loss to America's life in the five years from 1929 to 1933 was 287 billions of dollars!

To get an idea what this loss signifies it may be stated that the total loss of the World War to all the nations involved is estimated at 250 billion dollars and that the present wealth of the United States, including all its natural resources, soil, farmstead, factories, mines, towns and cities is variously estimated at between 210 and 285 billion dollars. In other words, if the whole of the United States had sunk to the bottom of the sea the loss would about equal the loss caused by the business depression that started in October, 1929.

THE CAUSE OF THE LOSS

The only purpose of production is consumption. Nothing is produced until it is in the hands of, or at the service of, the consumer.

Production and services that cannot be sold are criminal wastes of raw material, equipment and labor.

What the industry of a nation can produce is determined by its capacity to produce. What it does produce is determined by the purchasing power in the hands of its consumers.

Thus limited purchasing power becomes the brake shoe of industry. As purchasing power shrinks so does production, as production shrinks so does the amount of goods and services at the disposition of the people.

The cause of America's present woe is neither over-production nor excess capacity. It is the inability of the American people to purchase the products of their fields, mines and factories, with the income received in their service.

(Brother Gilbert's article will be continued in the next issue of the paper).

Abolish the poll tax! The right to vote is the heritage of all American people.